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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT Soviet and East German Air Force
Activity at Basdorf and Tutow

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8 OCT 1958

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

report concerning Soviet and East German Air Force activity between 8 and 11 September 1958 at the Basdorf bombing range and Tutow airfield. The report describes the security measures in force at Basdorf, time and weather conditions, and bombing practice procedures.¹ It further states that no aircraft was observed at Tutow, either flying or grounded. On either side of the runway, in the southern part of the airfield, a KNIFEREST radar antenna is located; a wooden shed stands near each. No Soviet personnel was observed at Tutow.

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Russian and E.C.A.F. activity at BASDORF and TUTOW(8 - 11 Sep 58)MAP REFERENCES:

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BASDORF BOMBING RANGE

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1. On 9 Sep 58 the wooded area west of BASDORF [] was heavily guarded by Russian sentries and motor-cycle patrols. No entry was allowed to civilians as aircraft bombing practice was in progress. Red flags were flown at various points to show bombing practice was taking place.
2. Bombing practice took place between the hours of 1000 - 1200 hours.
3. The following observations were noted:
 - (a) The weather was poor with low cloud (approximately 600 m. ceiling) and rain.
 - (b) Single aircraft flew from east to west at half-hourly intervals over the bombing range.
 - (c) The aircraft sounded like jet-powered aircraft flying at a height of approximately 2000 m.
 - (d) The aircraft flew straight over the target area and never came below cloud level.
 - (e) Each aircraft let drop a salvo of four bombs.
 - (f) The bombs made a considerable detonation. Trees and visibility prevented observation of flash, smoke or bomb craters.
4. On 11 Sep 58 no bombing took place from 1400 hours to 1700 hours. The weather was very bad at that time with low cloud and heavy rain.

TUTOW AIRFIELD

5. On 10 Sep 58 no aircraft were in evidence at TUTOW airfield, either flying or grounded.
6. The airfield is guarded by police. Civilians wearing red arm bands patrol round the perimeter fence.
7. Local inhabitants of TUTOW are allowed to cross the airfield if they have a special pass issued by the Burgermaster.

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8. Either side of the runway, in the southern part of the airfield, a KNIFEREST radar aerial is located. A wooden shed stands near to each KNIFEREST.
9. two new wooden huts have been built. They have windows and are 10 m. long x 4 m. wide. Another two such huts are still under construction with as yet no roofs.
10. No Russian personnel were evident in TUTOW on 11 Sep 58.

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